

CIACRS BR 75-29 Jun 75 C 1 of 1
The S. Vietnamese Estab.: Selected Revolutionary Administrators BR 75-29

Approved For Release 2000/05/31 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000200010028-0

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*The South Vietnamese Establishment:
Selected Revolutionary Administrators*

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June 1975

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

Classified by 013787
Exempt from General Declassification Schedule
of E.O. 11652, exemption category:
§ 58(1), (2), and (3)
Automatically declassified on:
date impossible to determine

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PREFACE

Since the formation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) in September 1945, a unified Vietnam under Communist control has been Hanoi's primary goal. The military victory of the People's Army of Vietnam (PAVN) in the South on 30 April 1975, after 30 years of struggle, has effectively brought the entire country under DRV control, although the reunification for which Hanoi has been striving may not be formally accomplished for some time. The Vietnamese Communists have carefully avoided making any precise or definitive announcement regarding the nature or likely duration of the current Communist administration in the South.

It is clear that, for the time being, many of the top-level personalities involved in the wartime Communist administration in the South will continue to play leading roles in the new political process. The new rulers have announced the formation of a "Military Management Committee" in Saigon, headed by PAVN Col. Gen. Tran Van Tra, who is an alternate member of the Central Committee of North Vietnam's ruling *Lao Dong* Party. Versions of the Military Management Committee are being duplicated on a regional basis throughout South Vietnam. These regional organizations are likely to function as administrative units until such time as the Communists decide on a more permanent form of government.

The initial signs from Saigon (30 April-10 June 1975) seem to indicate that for the immediate future the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG) will remain in being and serve as the legal entity with which foreign governments will establish diplomatic relations. Hanoi apparently intends to secure firm administrative and political control in the South before moving to reunify the country. It also is likely that members of the PRG will continue in the positions they have held since its formation in June 1969.

At the ceremonies held in Saigon on 13 May to celebrate the Communist victory, the most prominently featured member of the "Southern" delegation was Pham Hung, a member of the *Lao Dong* Party Politburo and onetime Vice Premier of the DRV. It was Hung's first public appearance since 1967, when the DRV sent him to South Vietnam to direct the insurgency. The prominence given to Hung and the assumption of the chairmanship of the Saigon Military Management Committee by Tran Van Tra suggest that the North intends to retain the tight control over the Southern party and government apparatus that it has held since 1945.

This report was prepared by the Central Reference Service and was coordinated within CIA as appropriate and with the Department of State. Comments and questions may be directed to

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The DRV initiated and directed the war and has administered Communist-controlled areas in the South through the following organizations:

Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN)—An extension of the ruling *Lao Dong* Party in Hanoi, COSVN has been the command and administrative apparatus charged with directing and coordinating the war in South Vietnam. Orders have gone directly to COSVN from the North Vietnamese Politburo and the PAVN High Command.

National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam (NFLSV)—Formed in December 1960, the NFLSV is ostensibly a democratic and independent mass organization. It was, however, established by the DRV and receives its guidance from Hanoi.

People's Revolutionary Party (PRP)—The southern branch of the North's *Lao Dong* Party, formed on 1 January 1962.

Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG)—Established in June 1969 to provide the Communists with a formal apparatus on which to base their claim to political power in South Vietnam.



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